

Bob Gorman
283 Oxbow Drive
Torrington, CT. 06790

TESTIMONY
Appropriations Committee
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My name is Bob Gorman and I reside in the 63rd district. I have been an Independent Living Advocate at Independence Northwest in Naugatuck for the past seventeen years. Our center is one of the five Independent Living Centers in CT. Our center serves 43 towns throughout Northwestern CT.

Independent Living Centers provide direct services to individuals with all disabilities and those that are aging in the community. The myriad of services we provide is unique in that it would be very difficult to find other resources in one agency that the ILC provides.

For over 25 years ILC's have helped fragile and vulnerable consumers navigate a very complicated and, at times, frustrating system to allow them to live independently. Finding safe and affordable housing, transportation, assistance in applying for social security benefits, Medicare and Medicaid, SNAP, advocating for system changes and individual advocacy is a brief listing of services we provide.

We follow up to insure all consumer needs were met at no cost to the individual.

Our centers rely on state funding to continue our much needed services. Our funding was totally eliminated from the budget released last week. This totaled \$528,680 for all five centers or \$105,700 per center.

Please restore ILC's funding so that our dedicated staff may continue with this very important work.

Thank you.